



THE NSA: EXACTLY WHAT OUR FOUNDING FATHERS DIDN'T WANT

February 27, 2012 · by [Noah Sidman-Gale](#) · in [Public Service Announcement](#) · [Edit](#)

During this morning's daily Twitter scan I came across an interesting infographic about the NSA. We all know that since the Patriot Act was passed the NSA has been illegally intercepting American's phone calls and emails without warrants or suspicion of wrongdoing. Also, the NSA is now so large and secretive, that no one knows how many people it employs, how many programs exist, and how many of your tax payer dollars are going to fund it. Here are some scary facts about the NSA:

-The NSA intercepts and stores 1.7 billion emails, phone calls, texts, and other electronic communications every day. This amount of information is equal to 138 million books every 24 hours.

-The NSA has more employees than the FBI and CIA combined and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a workforce of over 230,000 people (the third-largest after the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs).

-In 2008 the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) gave immunity to the warrantless wiretapping program started in 2001, meaning that they don't need warrants, probable cause, or any type of transparency for the actions they take.

-Even with all their resources, the NSA and DHS are surprisingly ineffective. According to the Washington Post, officials knew that Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab could be a potential threat to American citizens. However, when he tried to ignite explosives hidden in his underwear on a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit, it wasn't the NSA or DHS that stopped him, but a fellow passenger that tackled and detained him.

It seems like the NSA and DHS are much more effective at spying on America's citizens than protecting them. Besides infringing on individual freedoms, liberties, and privacy the NSA and DHS are jeopardizing the values that our country was founded on. Tonight, when you go to bed

and drift off into a peaceful slumber, don't forget that your emails are being read, your phone calls recorded, and that our founding fathers are rolling over in their graves.

-Noah

Sources:

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/top-secret-america/articles/a-hidden-world-growing-beyond-control/print/>

<http://www.aclu.org/national-security/nsa-unchained-infographic>



Tags: DHS, Freedom, NSA, Patriot act, privacy, wiretap

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